



REQUEST OF EARLY NOTIFICATION OF SERIAL NUMBER

Inventor(s): KODAMA, Hidetoshi; YOKOYAMA, Koichiro; KOMURO, Kiyoto; YASUE, Takuya; AKAHANE, Takashi; and ISONO, Masahiro

Title: INK-JET RECORDING APPARATUS AND RECORDING METHOD THEREFOR

Atty Doc. #: Q79055 Client: NGB CORPORATION

Filing Date: January 5, 2004 # Pgs. Spec/Abst: 105/2 Claims: 10

# Dwg. Sheets: 47 Decl. Copy Prelim Amdt. Yes

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**PATENT APPLICATION**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of

KODAMA, Hidetoshi, et al.

This is a Continuation of  
Appln. No.: 09/544,543



Docket No: Q79055

Confirmation No.: To be determined

Prior Group Art Unit: 2853

Filed: January 5, 2004

Prior Examiner: L. Tran

For: INK-JET RECORDING APPARATUS AND RECORDING METHOD THEREFOR

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

**MAIL STOP NON-FEE AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows on the accompanying pages.

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

This is a Continuation of  
U.S. Appln. No. 09/544,543

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

**Amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence:**

This is a continuation of Application No. 09/544,543, filed April 6, 2000; the disclosure  
of which is incorporated herein by reference.

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

This is a Continuation of  
U.S. Appln. No. 09/544,543

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claims 1-32 (canceled)

33. (new): A sheet feeding device for feeding a recording medium including a first medium provided as a cut-sheet form and a second medium provided as a rolled-sheet form to a recording section at which a recording operation is performed with respect to the recording medium, by ejecting ink droplets thereto, the sheet feeding device comprising:

a first sheet feeder, operable to feed a first medium provided as a cut-sheet form stacked thereon to the recording section; and

a second sheet feeder, adapted to be detachably attached to the first sheet feeder, and operable to feed the second medium to the recording section.

34. (new): The sheet feeding device as set forth in claim 33, wherein the second medium is fed to the recording section via the first sheet feeder.

35. (new): The sheet feeding device as set forth in claim 33, further comprising a third sheet feeder, adapted to be detachably attached to the first sheet feeder in place of the second

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This is a Continuation of  
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sheet feeder, and operable to feed a third medium in a cut-sheet form having a length longer than a length of the first medium.

36. (new): The sheet feeding device as set forth in claim 33, further comprising a third sheet feeder, adapted to be detachably attached to the second sheet feeder, and operable to feed a third medium in a cut-sheet form having a length longer than a length of the first medium.

37. (new): The sheet feeding device as set forth in claim 33, wherein the first sheet feeder comprises an edge guide member operable to commonly guide side edges of the first medium and the second medium situated on the first sheet feeder.

38. (new): The sheet feeding device as set forth in claim 33, wherein the second medium is held by the second sheet feeder without a restricting force.

39. (new): The sheet feeding device as set forth in claim 33, wherein:  
the second sheet feeder comprises a detachable shaft member adapted to be inserted in a core part of the second medium; and  
the shaft member comprises a flange member provided in at least one longitudinal end of the shaft member and formed with at least one flat portion.

40. (new): The sheet feeding device as set forth in claim 33, wherein the second sheet

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This is a Continuation of  
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feeder comprises a cutter operable to cut the second medium.

41. (new): An ink-jet recording apparatus, comprising:

a recording head, operable to perform a recording operation with respect to a recording medium including a first medium provided as a cut-sheet form and a second medium provided as a rolled-sheet form, by ejecting ink droplets thereto;

a first sheet feeder, operable to feed the first medium stacked thereon to a first region opposite to the recording head; and

a second sheet feeder, adapted to be detachably attached to the first sheet feeder, and operable to feed the first region via the first sheet feeder.

42. (new): A first sheet feeding device adapted to be detachably attached to a second sheet feeding device for feeding a recording medium in a cut-sheet form, and operable to feed a rolled recording medium, via the first sheet feeding device, to a recording section at which a recording operation is performed with respect to either the recording medium in a cut-sheet form or the rolled recording medium.

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This is a Continuation of  
U.S. Appl. No. 09/544,543

**REMARKS**

Entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
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WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: January 5, 2004



Grant K. Rowan  
Registration No. 41,278



**PATENT APPLICATION**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of

Docket No: Q79055

KODAMA, Hidetoshi, et al.

This is a Continuation of  
Appln. No.: 09/544,543

Confirmation No.: To be determined

Prior Group Art Unit: 2853

Filed: January 5, 2004

Prior Examiner: L. Tran

For: INK-JET RECORDING APPARATUS AND RECORDING METHOD THEREFOR

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents were previously submitted in U.S. Application No. 09/544,543.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date; (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

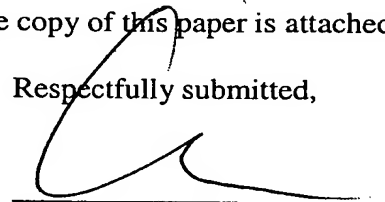
This is a Continuation of  
U.S. Appln. No. 09/544,543

filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE

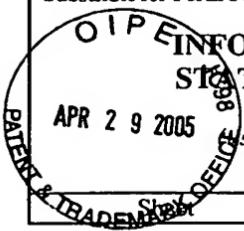
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Date: January 5, 2004

Substitute for Form 1449 A &amp; B/PTO

Complete if Known


**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

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of 2

This is a Continuation Application of Number	09/544,453
Confirmation Number	To be Determined
Filing Date	January 5, 2004
First Named Inventor	KODAMA, Hidetoshi
Prior Art Unit	2853
Examiner Name	L. Tran
Attorney Docket Number	Q79055

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)		
		US 6239817		05-2001	Mayer
		US 6325489		12-2001	Endo
		US 4,920,355		04/24/1990	Katerberg
		US 5,751,303		05/12/1998	Erickson et al.
		US 5,291,227		03/1/1994	Suzuki
		US 5,844,585		12/01/98	Kurashima et al
		US			
		US			
		US			

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)			
		EP	0 751 476	A2	01/02/1997	Kazuo Saito et al.	Yes
		JP	7-25007	A	01/27/1995	Tanaka Kiyoharu	
		JP	6-182988	A	07/05/1994	Motai Hidekazu	
		JP	63-299940	A	12/07/1988	Ebinuma Ryuichi	
		JP	7-9712	A	01/13/1995	Kanemura Masaji	
		JP	8-156351	A	06/18/1996	Sato Osamu	
		JP	8-169155		07/02/96		
		JP	9-71009		03/18/97		
		JP	11-291506		10/26/99		
		JP	3-49236		05/14/91		
		JP	4-34274		03/23/92		
		JP	86004		03/31/97		

**NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation <sup>6</sup>
		Japanese Office Action 095160, dated April 5, 2000, citing references 3-49236, 4-34274, 9-86004 and 8-169580	
		Patent Abstracts of Japan 08169155 July 2, 1996	
		Patent Abstracts of Japan 09071009 March 18, 1997	
		Patent Abstracts of Japan 11291506 October 26, 1999	
		Patent Abstracts of Japan 09086004 March 31, 1997	
		Patent Abstracts of Japan 08169580 July 7, 1996	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.

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This is a Continuation of Application Number	09/544,543
Confirmation Number	To be Determined
Filing Date	January 5, 2004
First Named Inventor	KODAMA, Hidetoshi
Prior Art Unit	2853
Examiner Name	L. Tran
Attorney Docket Number	Q79055

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)		
		US			
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		Country Code <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)			
		JP	8-169580		07/02/96		

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Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation <sup>6</sup>

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